## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 CCO-00

OTPE-00 FCC-02 OC-05 BIB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 /116 W ------ 004304

R 290550Z AUG 75 FM AMCONSUL BRISBANE TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0632 INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA AMCONSUL MELBOURNE AMCONSUL SYDNEY

**UNCLAS BRISBANE 0198** 

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ENRG, EIND

SUBJECT: SEVERE ELECTRICITY RESTRICTIONS FOR S.E. QUEENSLAND

REF: BRISBANE'S A-15

- 1. MINES AND ENERGY MINISTER RON CAMM WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF STATE AUTHORITIES HAS IMPOSED SEVERE POWER RESTRICTIONS ON BRISBANE AND SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND.
- 2. ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC CONSUMERS WILL BE INCONVENIENCED THE EFFECT ON INDUSTRY WILL BE DRASTIC. POWER RATIONING WILL LIMIT INDUSTRY TO A THREE DAY WORKING WEEK, AND IF THE SITUATION IS PROLONGED INDUSTRIAL STAND-DOWNS COULD QUICKLY EXCEED 500,000 WORKERS.
- 3. RATIONING IS A RESULT OF A CONTINUING DISPUTE BETWEEN COAL MINERS UNIONS AND OWNERS. COAL SUPPLIES TO SWANBANK POWER HOUSE ARE BELOW MINIMUM LEVEL REQUIRED TO OPERATE THEREFORE ERODING ALREADY DANGEROUSLY LOW STOCK-PILE. 857-589, 8 20RSENED BY NEED TO RAPIDLY BOOST STOCKPILE TO COVER CHRISTMAS PERIOD WHEN ALL MINERS ARE ON VACATION. 4. ISSUE IS BEING CLOUDED OF MINERS ON OTHER FIELDS. IT UNCLASSIFIED

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IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE OVERALL SOLUTION TO THE CITY'S POWER

CRISIS UNTIL THE BROADER NATIONAL ISSUES ARE SOLVED.
BOTH GOVERNMENT AND UNIONS SEEM TO BE PRETTY MUCH IN THE DARK
AS TO ANY POSSIBLE SOLUTION AT THIS STAGE.
5. SITUATION DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL IN REFAIR TO FOLLOW.

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NNN

**HARE** 

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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Subject: SEVERE ELECTRICITY RESTRICTIONS FOR S.E. QUEENSLAND TAGS: ELAB, ENRG, EIND To: STATE

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